

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1           1.    In a player/recorder system having a plurality of audio processing  
2 modules each having one or more tracks and each connected to a computer  
3 system having a processor and a display, a graphical user interface method of  
4 centrally controlling each of the one or more tracks of the plurality of audio  
5 processing modules, the method comprising the steps of:

6           generating a first display portion on the display by the processor, the first  
7 display portion including one or more control boxes to control a corresponding  
8 one or more tracks of the plurality of audio processing modules; and

9           generating a second display portion on the display by the processor, the  
10 second display including a central control mechanism for controlling all of the  
11 one or more tracks of the plurality of audio processing modules.

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1           2.    The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:  
2 selecting one of the control boxes corresponding to one of the tracks;  
3 transmitting a control command associated with the one of the control  
4 boxes from the computer system to an audio processing module having the one  
5 of the tracks; and

6           performing a function assigned to the control command by the audio  
7 processing module.

1           3.    The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:  
2 selecting a record button of a specific track;  
3 transmitting a record command from the computer system to an audio  
4 processing module having the specific tracks; and

5 causing the specific track to record an audio sound by the audio processing  
6 module.

1 4. The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:  
2 selecting the central control mechanism;  
3 transmitting a global control command associated with the central control  
4 mechanism from the computer system to the plurality of audio processing  
5 modules; and  
6 each audio processing module, performing a function assigned to the  
7 global control command by the audio processing module.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of generating a second  
2 display portion includes the step of said second display portion, including a  
3 global play command for controlling the one or more tracks of the audio  
4 processing modules.

1 6. The method of claim 5 further including the steps of:  
2 selecting the global play command;  
3 transmitting the global play command from the computer system to the  
4 plurality of audio processing modules; and  
5 each audio processing module, causing all the tracks to each play an audio  
6 sound by the audio processing module.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of generating a second  
2 display portion includes the step of said second display portion, including a  
3 global stop command for controlling the one or more tracks of the audio  
4 processing modules.

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1           8.     In a player/recorder system having a plurality of audio processing  
2 modules each having one or more input/output ("I/O") channels and each  
3 connected to a computer system having a processor and a display, a graphical  
4 user interface method of centrally controlling each of the one or more I/O  
5 channels of the plurality of audio processing modules, the method comprising  
6 the steps of:  
7           generating a first display portion, the first display portion including one or  
8 more control boxes to control a corresponding one or more I/O channels of the  
9 plurality of audio processing modules;  
10          displaying the first display portion by the processor on the display for  
11 control by a user;  
12          selecting a control command on a specified control box by the user;  
13          transmitting the control command from the computer system to the audio  
14 processing module having the I/O channel corresponding to the specified  
15 control box; and  
16          performing a task assigned to the control command by the audio  
17 processing module with respect to the I/O channel.

1           9.     In a player/recorder system having a plurality of audio processing  
2 modules each having one or more input/output ("I/O") channels and each  
3 connected to a computer system having a processor and a display, a graphical  
4 user interface method of centrally controlling all of the one or more I/O  
5 channels of the plurality of audio processing modules, the method comprising  
6 the steps of:

7 generating a display portion, the display portion including a central  
8 control mechanism to control all of the one or more I/O channels of the  
9 plurality of audio processing modules;  
10 displaying the display portion by the processor on the display for control by  
11 a user;  
12 selecting the central control mechanism;  
13 transmitting a global control command associated with the central control  
14 mechanism from the computer system to the plurality of audio processing  
15 modules; and  
16 each audio processing module, causing all the I/O channels to perform a  
17 task assigned to the global control command.

1 10. An apparatus for controlling a plurality of audio processing  
2 modules in a player/recorder system, each of the plurality of audio processing  
3 modules having one or more input/output ("I/O") channels, the apparatus  
4 comprising:  
5 a processor; and  
6 a display including  
7 a first display portion produced by the processor, the first display  
8 portion including one or more control boxes to control corresponding I/O  
9 channels of the plurality of audio processing modules, and  
10 a second display portion produced by the processor, the second  
11 display portion including a central control mechanism to control all of the  
12 one or more I/O channels of the plurality of audio processing modules.

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1 11. The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising a selection device to  
2 select one of the control boxes corresponding to one of the I/O channels of the  
3 plurality of audio processing modules.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the selection device is a  
2 keyboard.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the selection device is a mouse.

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1 14. The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising an I/O device to  
2 transmit a control command associated with the one of the control boxes selected  
3 by the selection device to an audio processing module having the one of the I/O  
4 channels.

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1 15. The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising an audio processing  
2 module to receive the control command and perform a function assigned to the  
3 control command.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising a selection device to  
2 select the central control mechanism.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising an I/O device to  
2 transmit a global control command associated with the central control  
3 mechanism to the plurality of audio processing modules.

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1 18. The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising a plurality of audio  
2 processing modules, each of which is to receive the global control command and

- 3 perform a function assigned to the control command with respect to all of the
- 4 I/O channels.

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